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Learning at all Ages

The LIFE Society Learns about Riverside's Police K-9 Program

RIVERSIDE, CA- A conference room at the UCR Extension Center was filled to capacity on May 29, 2012; as over 200 retired and semi-retired community members gathered to learn about a valuable partner in the world of law enforcement. The LIFE Society, which stands for **Learning Is ForEver** and is part of the UCR Extension Center, is a self-governing learning organization. As such, they have been providing lectures and educational forums to retirees for over twenty years. Susan Rainey, President-elect for the LIFE Society considered several lecture topics to captivate the audience, and at the top of the list was... ***The Police K-9.***

Several officers from the Riverside Police Department's K-9 Team and their four-legged partners gave a two-hour presentation at the UCR Extension Center. They provided an extensive overview of the Riverside Police Department's canine program; including the history, development, routine deployment and training. "The audience was fascinated about police dogs and what a valuable tool they are for the police officers," Rainey said. The audience saw several demonstrations and observed the manner in which the police dog is directed and controlled by the officer. "It was simply amazing and wonderful to see how well trained the police dogs are," said Roger Kent who helped arrange the program and attended the event.

Sergeant Patrick McCarthy, the supervisor for the K-9 Unit coordinated and oversaw the demonstration. "I was honored to be in the same room with so many great people that have been valuable contributors to the region and our country during their lives. I was surprised to learn that a majority of the audience was unaware of the history and development of our canine program," McCarthy said. The audience greeted each officer and their canine partner at the end of the demonstration and learned more about each of the police dogs. "You're never too old to learn about something and we are looking forward to repeating this presentation in the future," McCarthy stated.